

CLAIMS

I claim:

SUB A37 1. A method for storing object data of a requested file in an object-oriented computer system, comprising:

5 obtaining a request to store an object;

determining if a requested file version is lower than an object introduction version of the object;

streaming out a class of the object in the requested file version if the requested file version is equal to or higher than the object introduction version; and

10 streaming out the class of the object in the object introduction version if the requested file version is lower than the object introduction version.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the requested file version is lower than the object introduction version, the method further comprising representing the object
15 as a proxy object when a file is opened, and wherein the streaming out in the object introduction version comprises:

the proxy object holding onto the object's data; and

the proxy object streaming out the object's data.

20 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

one or more superior objects of the object querying the object to determine a version to stream out;

the object responding to stream out in the requested file version if the requested file version is equal to or higher than the object introduction version;

the object responding to stream out in the object introduction version if the requested file version is lower than the object introduction version; and

5 the one or more superior objects of the object streaming out in accordance with the object response.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining a request to store an object is initialized by saving a file containing the object.

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5. An apparatus for storing object data of a requested file in an object-oriented computer system comprising:

an object-oriented computer system having a memory and a data storage device coupled thereto;

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one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for obtaining a request to store an object, for determining if a requested file version is lower than an object introduction version of the object, for streaming out a class of the object in the requested file version if the requested file version is equal to or higher than the object introduction version, and for streaming out the class of the object in the object

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introduction version if the requested file version is lower than the object introduction version.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the requested file version is lower than the object introduction version, further comprising one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for representing the object as a proxy object when a file is opened, and wherein the streaming out in the object introduction version comprises:

- 5 the proxy object holding onto the object's data; and
- the proxy object streaming out the object's data.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising:

- means for one or more superior objects of the object to query the object to
- 10 determine a version to stream out;

 means for the object responding to the one or more superior objects to stream out in the requested file version if the requested file version is equal to or higher than the object introduction version;

- means for the object responding to the one or more superior objects to stream
- 15 out in the object introduction version if the requested file version is lower than the object introduction version; and

 means for the one or more superior objects of the object streaming out in accordance with the object response.

- 20 8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the one or more computer programs for obtaining a request to store an object comprises means for initialized the request by saving a file containing the object.

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9. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for storing object data of a requested file in an object-oriented computer system, the method comprising:

obtaining a request to store an object;
determining if a requested file version is lower than an object introduction version of the object;
streaming out a class of the object in the requested file version if the requested file version is equal to or higher than the object introduction version; and
streaming out the class of the object in the object introduction version if the requested file version is lower than the object introduction version.

10. The article of manufacture of claim 9 wherein the requested file version is lower than the object introduction version, the method further comprising representing the object as a proxy object when a file is opened, and wherein the streaming out in the object introduction version comprises:

the proxy object holding onto the object's data; and
the proxy object streaming out the object's data.

11. The article of manufacture of claim 9 wherein the method further comprises:

the object responding to stream out in the requested file version if the requested file version is equal to or higher than the object introduction version;

the one or more superior objects of the object streaming out in accordance with the object response.

10 12. The article of manufacture of claim 9 wherein obtaining a request to
store an object is initialized by saving a file containing the object.